

Romans 8:12-25

The “rights” seem clear, salvation and freedom from Sin and Death, but what about the “responsibilities?” In vs. 17, Paul lays it out: we are co-heirs with Christ “if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.” Wait, what? Things were going so smoothly, Paul! All this beautiful language about salvation, our freedom from Sin and Death because Christ has dealt with sin, and you go and throw suffering on the table? For Paul, it’s clear that to be a part of the family means to live into the family way of doing things, and for the family of God, that means faithfulness to God, even unto death. Salvation and submission to walking the Jesus way, led by the Spirit, are inseparable. The question Paul forces us to ask in the passage is not, “how do I get to heaven”? No. We must ask, “am I living into my identity and calling as a child of God, a steward of God’s creation? Am I walking in newness of life and being an agent of reconciliation in God’s world here and now” (Lobdell, 2017)?

Theology is an ongoing conversation. It’s useful and accessible for everyone. J. Kenneth Grider taught theology at Nazarene Theological Seminary 38 years. He was fond of saying “theology must wear overalls.” It must connect with real people in everyday life, or else it is irrelevant. The Lord is sturdy and durable. We can risk offering Him to everyone, everywhere we go.

Next week: Pastor Scott Shaw preaching. Luke 8:4-15

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As spiritually adopted children of God, we as the community of faith—the church—must demonstrate generosity, love, kindness and holiness in all we do and say... live like our Father, His Son and Spirit.

In the power we receive from the Holy Spirit, we can offer a 'new day' to our community and our church, marked by growth, vitality and transformed lives.

God is calling us all to lean on Him and pull together as one body. To live His life in the neighborhood and demonstrate His grace.

How can the Lord and His church become a new priority in your life and practice?

To what trappings of your old life as an orphan are you clinging?

Is there anything preventing you from trusting Jesus with all of your life? Preventing you from living as a fellow-heir with Christ? Give it to Him.

"...be set free from slavery to decay and enter the glorious freedom of God's children." Romans 8:21

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